

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00

DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 MC-02

/097 W

-----054449 141727Z /45

P 141629Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2555

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

USERDA HQ WASHDC PRIORITY

USERDA HQ GERMANTOWN PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENNA 6563

USIAEA

DEPT PASS IO/SCT

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, MY

SUBJ: PROPOSED TRANSFER TO MALAYSIA OF TRIGA MARK II RESEARCH
REACTOR AND FUEL

REF: STATE 158954

1. MISSION HAS INFORMED AGENCY AND MALAYSIAN IAEA
MISSION REP OF U.S. POSITION SET FORTH REFTEL RE
REQUIREMENT FOR NEGOTIATION OF BILATERAL U.S.-
MALAYSIA AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BEFORE U.S. WILL
CONSIDER SUPPLY OF FUEL THROUGH IAEA.

2. AGENCY STAFF LEVEL REACTION CAN BEST BE
DESCRIBED AS ONE OF ASTONISHMENT, SINCE, TO THE
BEST OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE
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U.S. HAS REFUSED TO CONSIDER THE TRANSFER OF A
NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTOR THROUGH THE IAEA IN
RESPONSE TO A FORMAL AGENCY REQUEST. THEY CONSIDER
THIS TO BE A SEVERE BLOW TO THE IAEA WHICH WILL
SERVE TO WEAKEN RATHER THAN STRENGTHEN IT, AND
WHICH IS IN STARK CONTRAST TO RECENT U.S. STATEMENTS
REGARDING SUPPORT FOR IAEA, INCLUDING STATEMENTS BY

PRESIDENT CARTER.

3. FYI. MISSION WILL BE DISCUSSING MATTER FURTHER WITH AGENCY AND WE HOPE TO PROVIDE A DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN DUE COURSE. END FYI.

4. MALAYSIAN IAEA MISSION REP REACTED RATHER NEGATIVELY AS WELL, NOTING THAT MALAYSIA HAD STRONGLY VALUED ITS CONTACTS WITH AND ASSISTANCE FROM IAEA, AND THAT THIS REQUIREMENT FOR BILATERAL AGREEMENT APPEARED TO BE A DEPARTURE IN U.S. POLICY WHICH HE FOUND VERY SURPRISING. HE THOUGHT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT U.S. APPARENTLY INTENDED TO USE MALAYSIA AS A "GUINEA PIG" IN THE SENSE, THAT, ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION, THE U.S. HAD NEVER REFUSED YET TO TRANSFER RESEARCH REACTORS THROUGH IAEA. HE CLEARLY WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED AT U.S. RESPONSE, WHICH HE WOULD BE MAKING KNOWN TO HIS AUTHORITIES IN KUALA LUMPUR. MISOFF SOUGHT TO SMOOTH SITUATION A BIT BY NOTING THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME ADVANTAGES TO A BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION AND URGED THAT GOM CONSIDER MATTER CAREFULLY. WE ALSO NOTED THAT EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR WOULD BE DISCUSSING MATTER WITH GOM.

5. COMMENT: MISSION BELIEVES U.S. MAY BE HEADED FOR SOME ROUGH SAILING OVER THIS ISSUE. WE WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPRECIATE RECEIVING A REPORT ON EMBASSY'S APPROACH TO GOM FOR OUR INFO. END COMMENT

6. FYI. ON SEPARATE BUT RELATED MATTER, MISSION HAS LEARNED THAT AGENCY LEGAL DIVISION STAFF MEMBER HA-VINH PHOUNG WILL BE GOING TO MALAYSIA NEXT WEEK AT GOM REQUEST TO BE PRESENT DURING ERDA PHYSICAL SECURITY TEAM VISIT, SINCE HA-VINH HAS BEEN PROVIDING SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE TO GOM IN DRAFTING A MALAYSIAN REGULATORY LEGISLATION, INCLUDING PHYSICAL PROTECTION MEASURES. END FYI. STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, POLICIES, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS TRANSFER, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENNA06563
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770251-0154
Format: TEL
From: VIENNA USIAEA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770755/aaaabvwb.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b768566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 158954
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1855291
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED TRANSFER TO MALAYSIA OF TRIGA MARK II RESEARCH REACTOR AND FUEL
TAGS: TECH, MY, US, IAEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b768566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009